



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Nov. 27, 2012

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### **North Dakota Department of Health Receives Year-Two Implementation Funds From the DentaQuest Foundation**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is announcing that it will be receiving year-two funding from the DentaQuest Foundation to support its proposed action plan to address issues related to oral/dental health services to the underserved in North Dakota.

“The North Dakota Department of Health is a strong and passionate community leader. The department has worked hard to build community support for oral health,” said Ralph Fuccillo, President of the DentaQuest Foundation. “Their planning is sound. We are excited to see what develops as they engage their communities to embrace the challenge and opportunity of remediating oral health disparities in their communities.”

North Dakota is one of 18 state nonprofit partners who are part of the Oral Health 2014 Initiative. Launched by the DentaQuest Foundation in 2011, the Oral Health 2014 Initiative aims to eliminate systemic barriers that limit access to oral health care by fostering strong community partnerships committed to collective impact.

“The North Dakota Department of Health’s Oral Health Program and a group of stakeholders are excited to move forward with the plan,” said Bobbie Will, DentaQuest Grant manager with the North Dakota Department of Health. “This plan is aimed at increasing people’s access to oral care by helping to increase access to basic oral health prevention services, awareness and education through medical and dental collaboration.”

During phase one, the North Dakota Department of Health worked to develop multi-dimensional community partnerships and engaged them in the development of an oral health action plan to address increased delivery of oral health care to populations that have difficulty finding access to care, either due to financial limitations or geographical limitations. In the second phase of this multi-year initiative, North Dakota Oral Health stakeholders will introduce Smiles for Life, an online oral health curriculum to increase basic knowledge of oral health prevention, screening

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and application of fluoride varnish in medical/nursing schools, to health-care professionals and staff at long-term care facilities in North Dakota, as well as starting a long-term care outreach pilot program to increase access for our aging and disabled population. The DentaQuest Foundation will support this effort with funding and technical assistance.

A distinguished National Advisory Committee of leaders in community health, philanthropy, civic engagement, and founding members of the U.S. National Oral Health Alliance provided guidance to the DentaQuest Foundation in the development of the program and the selection of grantees.

For more information about the DentaQuest grant, contact Bobbie Will, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4515.

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